

## **IN THE CLAIMS:**

Claims 1 5, 8, 11-13, 15, and 18-35 were previously canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 9 and 10 are canceled herein. Claims 16 and 17 are amended. All of the pending claims 2-4, 6, 7, 14, 16, and 17 are presented below. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application. Please enter these claims as amended.

### **Listing of the Claims:**

1. (Canceled).
2. (Previously presented) A process for preparing at least one sample for a method of detecting and quantifying a nucleic acid of interest in the at least one sample, said process comprising:
  - a) administering at least 100 microliters of the at least one sample to a piece of filter paper capable of absorbing the at least one sample, wherein the absorption results in at least one spot of the at least one sample on the filter paper,
  - b) drying the filter paper having the absorbed at least one spot of the at least one sample,
  - c) excising the at least one spot of the at least one sample from the surrounding filter paper,
  - d) extracting nucleic acid from the at least one spot of the at least one sample with a nucleic acid isolation solution,
  - e) detecting nucleic acid of interest, if present, and
  - f) quantifying the nucleic acid of interest in the at least one sample.
3. (Previously presented) The process according to claim 2, wherein at least 200  $\mu$ l of the at least one sample is administered to the filter paper.
4. (Previously presented) The process according to claim 3, wherein at least 250  $\mu$ l of the at least one sample is administered to the filter paper.
5. (Canceled).

6. (Previously presented) The process according to claim 2, wherein at least two samples are administered to the filter paper.

7. (Previously presented) The process according to claim 2, further comprising administering a known amount of a reference nucleic acid to the filter paper.

8.-13. (Canceled).

14. (Previously presented) The process according to claim 2, wherein the nucleic acid of interest is from a virus.

15. (Canceled).

16. (Currently amended) The process according to claim 14, wherein the ~~viral RNA~~ nucleic acid of interest is from at least one of HIV or HTLV.

17. (Currently amended) The process according to claim 14, wherein the ~~viral RNA~~ nucleic acid of interest is from HIV-1.

18.-35. (Canceled).